GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:694
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of foodgrains including wheat and paddy has been declining over the years and is expected to be lower than the targets during the current season;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the expected shortfall in production of foodgrains, grain-wise;

(c) the findings of the study conducted for boosting foodgrain production;

(d) the details of the incentive package finalized for increasing wheat production;

(e) whether the said package is proposed to be extended to other crops also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Following table gives the production of foodgrains, grain-wise, for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 and their target and production for the year 2006-07 (kharif only):

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06#	2006-07 (Kharif)
		Target				Production	
Rice	84.98	93.34	71.82	88.53	83.13	91.04	78.04 75.74
Wheat	69.68	72.77	65.76	72.15	68.64	69.48	- -
Coarse Cereals	31.08	33.37	26.07	37.60	33.46	34.67	28.69 24.51
Pulses	11.07	13.37	11.13	14.91	13.13	13.11	5.78 4.97
Food-grains	196.81	212.85	174.77	213.19	198.36	208.30	115.25 105.22

Fourth Advance estimates as on 15.07.2006

First Advance estimates as on 15.9.2006 (Kharif only)

Foodgrains production has been fluctuating during the years 2000-01 to 2005-06. For the current agriculture year 2006-07, kharif foodgrains as per the 1st advance estimates released on 15.09.2006, is estimated at 105.22 million tonnes against the target of 115.25 million tonnes.

(c): For boosting foodgrains production, besides regional variations in productivity, reasons for low productivity/production such as delayed field operations, low level of mechanization, low seed replacement rate, lack of irrigation under rain-fed conditions, imbalanced use of fertilizers, infestation of weeds and pests/diseases and lack of appropriate varieties need to be addressed.

(d): Government has formulated an action plan which includes targeting about 50 per cent area under wheat for enhancing wheat productivity by identifying specific districts in the wheat growing States. Further, for increasing wheat production, Government has announced a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs.750/- per quintal for the 2006-07 marketing season which shows an increase of Rs.100/- per quintal over the previous year MSP.

(e)&(f): At present, there is no such proposal.